

MARYLAND TAMS JOURNA

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MARYLAND TOKEN AND MEDAL SOCIETY, INC.

NO.42 WINTER VOL. X NO 4 1989 WHOLE

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MD TAMS JOURNAL is published four times e year by the Maryland Token and Medal Society, Inc., P. O. Box 3273, Baltimore, Md. 21228-0273

Meetings are held at various coin shows end conventions throughout the year. See information on future meetings elsewhere in this issue.

MEMBERSHIP
REGULAR: Applicants must be at lesst 18 years of age and of good moral character. JUNIOR: Applicants must be from 10 to 18 years of age and of good moral character. This application MUST be signed by a parent or guardian.

ORGANIZATIONAL: Interested clubs; societies; museums; resarch groups; etc.,

may apply for membership.

DUES: Dues for Regular, Junior and Organizational membership is \$7.50 per year. WILL MUMFORD EDITOR 987 SHERWOOD FOREST RD. ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

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MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts should be addressed to the Editor. Opinions expressed by the suthors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of MD TAMS, its Editor or its Officers. MD TAMS JOURNAL reserves the right to edit or reject any copy. SOCIETY BUSINESS

Correspondence pertaining to the business affairs of MD TAMS, including membership, change of address, etc., should be addressed to the Secretary, P. O. Box 3273, Baltimore, Maryland 21228-0273.

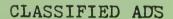
THE MARYLAND TAMS JOURNAL is produced by the Maryland Tokens and Medals Society to help stimulate and maintain interest in the collecting of medals, tokens and related exonumia from the State of Maryland and other areas. It is strictly a non-profit organization. The Journal is published quarterly: Spring, Summer. Fall and Winter.

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

RESTRICTIONS

MD TAMS does not guarantee advertising, but accepts copy in good faith. All advertising should be addressed to the Editor. Advertising copy shall be restricted to tokens, medals and other exonumia as well as allied numismatic material, publications and accessories related thereto. All advertisers must supply their own cuts and/or art work.

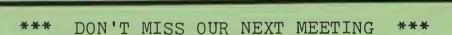
RATES: SIZE	1 ISSUE	4 ISSUES
1 page ½ page ¼ page 1/8 page	\$ 16.00 \$ 12.00 \$ 8.00 \$ 4.00	\$ 56.00 \$ 42.00 \$ 28.00 \$ 14.00



See Classified Ad section for this information.

DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINES	ISSUE DATE
Spring	February 15th	March 21st
Summer	May 15th	June 21st
Fall	August 15th	September 21st
Winter	November 15th	December 21st



WHEN: SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1990

THE CALVERT ROOM
THE STATE HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Parking in the Hilman Garage on West Street

TIME: 12:00 Noon - 3:00 p.m.

- * MEETING FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF THE STATE HOUSE.
- * SHORT WALKING TOUR OF NUMISMATIC ANNAPOLIS

See the home of John Chalmers
See the Old Treasury Building
See the home of Jonas Green

WHERE:

The President's Message



Bill Miller

As I write this message, winter's winds are roaring outside. While many creatures go into hibernation, the active exonumia collector prepares to brave the elements in search of that neat new token or medal.

Our last meeting was held in conjunction with the M.A.N.A. Convention in Lanham. Many thanks to Jack Pryor and all involved for a pleasant time! For those who missed our meeting, you missed discussion on club matters, a nice auction, opportunities to buy, sell and swap... and a lot of good fellowship.

Our next meeting is being arranged by Will Mumford to be held in Annapolis at the State House (please refer to the next meeting schedule on page 2). Also Will is working on a special speaker, so another good time is being planned. Please make every effort to attend!

MD TAMS is a thriving, vibrant club. We are constantly trying to vary our meeting places and schedules to include as many members as possible. Like any other organization you only get from MD TAMS what you put into it; let's resolve to do something special for each other in 1990 and push MD TAMS to even greater heights!

From The Editor

will Mfol

our many blessings. Judging from what is going on in Eastern Europe, we really have reason to rejoice and give thanks that we live in a country which values individual freedom and strives hard through its democratic processes to insure liberty, equality and justice to all its citizens. We have a long way to go, yet we don't aim to overthrow our government to obtain them.

This time of the year I always take time to reflect the events of the past year... my reflections have led to the MD TAMS Editor "year" awards! These awards do not reflect the official opinion of MD TAMS or its members, but originate solely from the editor. The winners are not notified of their selection and receive no prizes. If they don't read of their selection here they may never know of their selection and you might be doing them a favor by not telling... Anyway here they are:

"COIN ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR" - 1st place: MD TAMS; 2nd place: MSNA; 3rd place: ANA...Aren't we lucky to live in Maryland where the two best organizations are located!

"NOTED NUMISMATIST OF THE YEAR" - Stephen R. Taylor, ANA
Past President... Millard Hajek and Bill Miller almost
beat Steve out.... but Steve was just too dynamic!

"NOT-NOTED NUMISMATIST OF THE YEAR" - Arnold Sluggston of Hobokanski Park, N.H. He did absolutely nothing! Several other MD TAMS members were close ...

"DEALER OF THE YEAR" - Julian M. Leidman... For speaking out... on whatever and whenever he wants to....

"CONVENTION OF THE YEAR" - Pittsburg ANA... They don't come anybetter ... unless they're in Baltimore ...

"BEST QUARTERLY COIN PUBLICATION" - Tie between MD TAMS Journal and the CWTS Journal...for obvious reasons ...!

"BEST WEEKLY COIN PUBLICATION" - Tie between Coin World and Numismatic News... Never let it be said that I would stick my neck out... both are great publications.

"NUMISMATIC GIFT OF THE YEAR" - Hands down (or should I say pants down)... Coin World Logo Boxer Shorts-100% cotton, red & black, Small thru XL,\$19.50... How can you live without a pair?

"TOKEN OF THE YEAR" - Pick your own... Write a little story about it and send it to your editor ... all contributions appreciated..

I sincerely hope you all have a wonderful holiday and a great New Year.. spend some time to reflect and make your own selections

COIN WORLD LOGO

BOXER SHORTS

Dear MD TAMS Member:

The next Maryland State Numismatic Association Convention (May 18-20,1990) is five months away as you read this, but it will be on top of us soon enough. As in the last two years, members are needed to chair some important committees and, especially, to man the registration desk during the show. There is no set day for MD TAMS to assist with registration; you can help out on any of the three show days (Remember that MD TAMS will most likely meet on Saturday, May 19). The registration committee chairperson will compile a list of people and desk help time slots as the convention gets closer, but an early indication of your willingness to help will be appreciated. Our continued support of the convention will raise funds for us, as it did last year, that we can use to retire our book debt. So give the matter a little thought and drop mee a line by phone or P.O.box to say you'll help out. Thanks.

Respectfully. Bryce Doxzon, Vice-President

IN REMEMBRANCE

HARRY CARLTON SWANN

On Friday, November 17th, MD TAMS lost a good friend in Harry Swann. Mr. Swann, a lifetime resident of Ridgely, Maryland spent a good part of his life in the canning business and was a valuable source of information about canning on the Eastern Shore. Mr. Swann also had a large cannery token collection; many of his unique tokens were included in Maryland Merchant Tokens.

Mr. Swann joined MD TAMS in the summer of 1986 and was member # R-191. While he never attended a general meeting his knowledge and generosity were well known to many Eastern Shore collectors. He will be greatly missed.

MEDAL POTPOURI.....

LIFE SAVING MEDAL BY F.X. KOEHLER

Millard W. Hajek Bv

Many of you are quite familar with the achievements of FRANCIS X. KOEHLER in striking tokens for Maryland businesses and organizations and maybe less familar with his efforts in striking Civil War tokens. However, do you know that he also was an engraver for a Life Saving Medal issued by the United States State Department?

The Koehler medal, referred to as the "wreckers" medal in the official U.S. Mint records, was awarded to Americans for saving lives from shipwrecks along the seacoast. Only four gold in 1859 and twelve silver in 1862 for a total of sixteen "Wreckers" medals were offically struck from the dies. Known bronze issues of this medal were struck unoffically.

The quality of this medal and its appropriateness of design have come under criticism from time to time. It was felt that the quaint charm of the design would have been more suited to a 1759 era rather than a 1859 issue and the vignettes on the medal more suited to rescue of American sailors at sea rather than along the seacoast as intended.

Illustrated below is the medal along with a description of the obverse and reverse designs. Reference for this article was "MEDALS OF THE UNITED STATES MINT", THE FIRST CENTURY 1792-1892 by R. W. Julian. pp. 320-321.





OBVERSE: Sailor, clinging to a spar labelled U.S., with ship in

background coming to his rescue. KOEHLER at bottom.

REVERSE: Wreath of oak and laurel, with eagle below, enclosing

space for engraving. Thirty-two stars at top.

66 mm ENGRAVER: Francis X. Koehler

RUSS SEARS BY

The twentieth century had just arrived. Electricity was becoming an exciting new way to light cities and propel streetcars. The automobile was still an infant. Television was decades away. Expositions and fairs were important parts of a way of life before Americans became mobile and entertained by the likes of motion pictures, radio, and television.

An exposition to promote relations with our Pan-American neighbors was to have opened in 1899. The whole idea was almost given up as a result of the Spanish-American War. But, interest was revived in late 1898, and money assembled thru the sale of stocks and bonds, and thru government grants. Total fundings amounted to \$ 5,800,000.

The exposition was held between May 1 and November 2, 1901 with a total attendance of 8,000,000 persons. Consisting of over 350 acres on the northwest part of Delaware Park Lake, Buffalo, New York, representatives were on hand from most states and countries in the hemisphere.

While the exposition was successful in bringing together the Americas and presenting beautiful architecture and inovative electrical lighting, it is best remembered as the site of the assassination of President William McKinley. It was at the Temple of Music where terrorist Leon Czolgosz shot the President on September 6, 1901. He died on September 14.

The State of Maryland sent a delegation to the exposition to promote and inform visitors about the state. July 10, 1901 was officially Maryland Day.









NEW TRADE DOLLAR CATALOG ISSUED

The Third Edition of the "HANDBOOK OF UNITED STATES MUNICIPAL TRADE CURRENCY 1990" by Jean-Guy Cote has been released. This 54 page 4 x 7 pocket size handbook has over 1700 issues cataloged. The Municipal trade tokens are cataloged by denomination with some trade notes listed with the tokens.

The municipal trade tokens are cataloged alphabetically under denomination. The handbook is subdivided for 1 cent. 5 cents, 10 cents, 25 cents, 59 cents, 75 cents, \$1, \$1.50, \$2.50, \$5 and \$10 sections. The following data is listed for each issue: The municipality and state of issue, a short description of the coin and the metal. The mintage, when known, is also listed. The value of the token is listed where available.

Interest in collecting U.S. Municipal (or Commemorative) trade currency has picked up since the issue of the first handbook in 1988.

The handbook is available for \$4.00 postpaid from MICRO-ART, Suite 207, PO BOX 2213, Postal Station 'P', Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2T2. Also available is the Eighth Edition of "THE CTD POCKET GUIDE - CANADIAN TRADE DOLLARS" at \$4.00.



I no sooner get what I think is my final draft of listings than all kinds of new tokens and farmers surface. I met a Mrs. Basil B. Benson this past summer and she told me she had some picker checks at her home in Gettysburg, PA.She was related to the Bensons from Anne Arundel County who had several truck farms. She said she would send me a listing of the tokens she had. Just last week, I received a letter from her with checks from four new farmers...B.B.B., G.M.B., M.A.B., and T.R.K.

- B.B.B. Basil B. Benson, Aluminium checks, all Round of values: 1,5,10,15,50,100.
- G.M.B. G. Milton Benson, brass tokens; 1-R-34mm, 5-Oc-30mm
- M.A.B. Mahlon A. Benson, brass tokens: 1-R-25mm, 5-R-25mm, 10-R-25mm, 10-Sc-23mm, 15-Sc-23mm, 100-0c-25mm.
- T.R.K. Unk (?); 1-R-22mm, 5-R-23mm, 10-Sc-24mm, 15-Sc-24mm, 20-R-25mm, 100-0c-27mm, 200-Cl-29mm.

I have also run across several NOTICES printed in the Evening Capital, the Annapolis newspaper, which gives more clues to farmers who used picker checks. Three more new farmers are added to the list.

NOTICE.

Annapolis, May 23rd, 1900.

I hereby give notice to the public, that
I will redeem all my strawberry or pea
checks that may be accepted by Edward
Weiss, Mrs. Herold and Charles Muhlmister.

GEORGE WIEGAND, 23 2w. Pleasant Plaine Farm A. A. Co.

George Wiegand Pleasant Plains Farm The Evening Capital May 24, 1900 Oden C. Pumphrey 2nd District The Evening Capital May 24, 1900

Notice to Merchants.

The undersigned hereby gives notice to merchants and others of Annapolis, that checks given to pea and herry pickers in his employ, will only be redeemed when presented by Charles Weiss, Edward Weiss, Mrs. Herold and M. M. Smith.

ODEN.C. PUMPHREY, 3ad District, A. A. Co.

May 23rd, 1900.

NOTICE.

All persons are torewarned not to trade with pea pickers for my checks. Positively I shall not redoem any checks taken in violation of this notice.

5-25-1800. JNO. B. WELLS.

Jno. B. Wells
The Evening Capital
June 7, 1900

So we can add G.W., O.C.P., and J.B.W. to our list of farmers and keep our eyes open for their checks.

Jim Boswell keeps coming up with new checks and farmers as he scans the countryside. He even reports finding another Pickers' Shanty. This one is still in pretty good shape as it has been used for storage. It was also used as a home for farm workers after the farm stopped using pickers. This shanty was on the farm of John Wesley Clark, near Reese Road in Severn, Md.



Photo by James Boswell

ATTRIBUTING THE MAVERICK TOKEN

J. JEZEK / BOHEMIAN HALL

BY MILLARD W.HAJEK LM#1

Recently, I acquired the token illustrated below for my collection which precipitated the following story when I researched the token to attribute it to Baltimore.





OB: J. JEZEK. / 10 / BOHEMIAN HALL

RV: Blank

BRASS

23mm

ROUND

I felt very strongly that the Jezek token was a Baltimore piece and started to research the Baltimore Directories to confirm my hunch. The information I gleaned from the Directories indicate to me that the maverick token can indeed be attributed to Baltimore on the basis of the following information.

Both Bohemian Hall and J. Jezek were listed in the Baltimore Directories circa 1920-30. Bohemian Hall was located at 1801 E. Preston Street and it appears that a restaurant was operated on the premises in the 1920's. (In some instances the Directories list the restaurant operator but in this case, no listing appeared.).

A John and Margaret Jezek were in business at Pennington Avenue and Birch as proprietor of a restaurant in the 1920-26 time period.

My next step was to try and associate the name of J. Jezek with Bohemian Hall. I mentally checked out my options and decided to contact someone with the name Jezek to see if I could obtain this first hand information. Upon searching the local telephone directories, I found 4 listings with the last name of Jezek. I decided to correspond with each of these people. The very next day after posting the letters, I received a telephone call from a Mrs. Joseph Jezek (Dorothy) who related the following:

Her husband, Joseph (deceased for 16 years) was a member of the "Sokols", a gymnastic organization from Bohemian Hall Joseph was one of several childmen of John and Margaret Jezek who were immigrants from Prague, Czechoslovakia. According to Mrs. Dorothy Jezek, her in-laws were in several businesses, one of which was operating a beer garden type restaurant named the "Pleasure Garden" located on Pennington Avenue. She also expressed strong certanity that her father in-law John was a member of Bohemian Hall and since he was in the

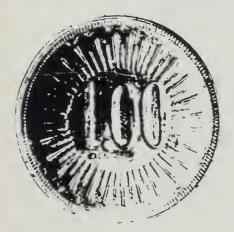
restaurant business, he could have benn the operator of the restaurant in Bohemian Hall. On the basis of the above, I feel I have uncovered another maverick which can be attributed to Baltimore.

We continued to chat and I soon discovered that Mrs. Jezek was a former employee (now retired) of C & P Telephone where I am currently employed. Boy, what a small world!!! She informed me that she participates as a volunteer in the company blood doner drive and would be at my work location the following week to help out. I took that opportunity to meet her and we continued our chat about her family and my hobby of collecting tokens and medals of Maryland. A very pleasurable experience for me as well as another attribution. My special thanks to Mrs. Dorothy Jezek for taking the time out of her busy schedule to call me and chat about her family!!!

MARYLAND TOKEN QUIZ

BY Millard W. Hajek LM#1

Here are some selected questions to stimulate your mind and sharpen your token expertise on Maryland tokens. But even more important, the quiz is designed to make you refer to our "Maryland Merchant Tokens" book to help dig out the answers. Good luck on your efforts and have fun!!!

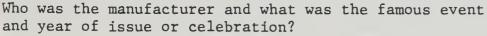




The value of the token within a circle of rays design appears on many tokens which can be attributed to two token manufacturers who issued tokens for Maryland.

Name these two token manufacturers.

The manufacturer of the token illustrated used the design showing the Maryland Coat Of Arms along with nine other designs were all issued in one year to celebrate a very famous event.





"Ladies Blush" appears on what token?

What type of material was used in the manufacture of the W. G. Maxwell tokens?





The two designs illustrated can be attributed to what very famous token manufacturer from Maryland?

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

R-226 LESTER A. WHITE New Windsor, MD R-227 DAN BENICE Rockville, MD R-228 GARY E. GLISE Rochester, N.Y. R-229 PAUL E. BELSCHNER Kensington, MD RODERICK I. MILLER R-230 Linthicum Hts., MD DARRYL T. WEISS R-231 Chino, CA WAYNE K. HOREN R-232 Pittsburgh, PA

- TICKETS WANTED -

- Transit tickets: bridge, ferry, tollroad, turnpike, gate check, stage, city rlway, street rlway, omnibus, merry-go-round, horse railrd, depot-hotel, steamer, etc.
- "Good for" tickets: good for milk, soda, bath, shave, discount, 5¢, ride, bread, meal, hotel, deomonstration, baggage.

Dan Benice Box 10068 Rockville, MD 20850

MARYLAND encased coins





by Bill Miller

Maryland is divided up into 23 couties plus Baltimore City. Of these counties we have encased coins listed from all of the counties but 8: Calvert. Garrett, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, and Wicomico. We have reports of encased coins from Calvert, Garrett, Queen Anne's and Wicomico and these will be listed later. So, that leaves four counties unreported. Here is a census of what is known so far (not including this month's new listings);

Allegany - 4 Anne Arundel - 3 Baltimore Co. - 2 Baltimore City - 42 Carroll - 4 Caroline - 1 Cecil - 1

Charles - 2

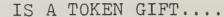
Dorchester - 2 Frederick - 2 Howard - 2 Montgomery - 3 Prince George's - 1 Talbot - 1 Washington - 3 Worcester - 2

- 75 TOTAL

In addition to this list we have a couple of encased coins that list two or more locations and three items that are non-local or unknown to me.

Next issue we will start new listings of encased coins which many of you have sent to me. Dig out your old encased coins and send me your list and we'll up the above numbers.

THE GREATEST GIFT





T'was the night before Christmas,

And all through the house,

An exonumist was stirring,

'Cause he had no gift for his spouse
"She's got a new dress,

And a coat no less!"

Can't be large, cause we've got no room!

She doesn't like perfume!

I could run out and get something handy,

Like a great big box of candy,

But the calories we don't need!

She already has more books than she can read!

But wait- what is it she tells herself?

"I never buy a gift I wouldn't buy for myself"

And quick as a flash,

Without a word spoken,

I dashed to my cabinet,

And much to my dismay,

Wrapped up my favorite token!
No greater love -

Can an exonumist display....



Will Mumford

MD TAMS CLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Classified advertising, up to a maximum of 25 words, are free to all members. Only one free ad may be submitted by each member per issue. All free ads must be re-submitted each issue. No "run until further notice" ads allowed. Ads larger than 25 words are accepted, provided the additional words are remitted for at the rate of 8¢ per word per insertion.

Hon-member advertising will be accepted at the rate of 8¢ per word, subject to the advertising restrictions listed above.

Word count: Name and address will count as five words. All other words and abbreviations, figure combinations and initials count as one word each.

WANTED - PENNA. TOKENS AND ADVERTISING Mirrors, George Washington storecards, John Wanamaker collectibles and old charge coins. Thanks. George Ganter, 580 E.St. Andrews Dr., Media, PA 19063

WANTED: INFORMATION AND PHOTOS for Latin America tokens catalog. Publication date 1991. Tokens 1750 thru 1915 will be covered. Russ Rulau, Box 153, Iola, WI 54945

WANTED DEPARTMENT STORE CHARGE TOKENS, Charge plates, paper & expired charge cards, old celluloid charge cards, Buy or trade. Darryl T. Weiss, 12783 Santa Ana Pl., Chino, CA 91710 WANTED - TICKETS SUCH AS FOR STAGE-COACH, bridges, ferry, tollroad, omnibus, Merry-Go-Round, Taxi, City Railway, trolley, etc. Please write. Dan Benice, Box 10068, Rockville, MD 20850

WANTED - ANNAPOLIS TOKENS, BOTTLES, MEDALS, or what ever you have. Also Anne Arundel County Pickers' Checks. Will Mumford, 987 Sherwood Forest Rd. Annapolis, MD 21401.

WANTED: WWI SERVICE MEDALS ISSUED BY STATES, Counties and towns. Particularly want Brunswick, MD. and Frostburg, MD. Louis Small, Box 19262MT, Jacksonville, Fla 32245

WANTED: TO BUY COLLECTIONS OR ACCUM-ULATIONS Latin America tokens. Any period. Write with full details price. Rulau, Box 153, Iola, WI 54945.

WANTED: MILITARY TOKENS AND COLLEC-TABLES all periods. Have all kinds of tokens, charge cards, etc.to trade or will buy. Jim Shipley, 8110 Hatteras Lane, Springfield, VA 22151

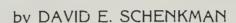
DELUX BOUND EDITION OF MARYLAND MERCHANT TOKENS. Last copy of 25. Unused, will sell for \$85.00 postpaid (10% off original price) Bill Miller, Box 246, Denton, MD 21629

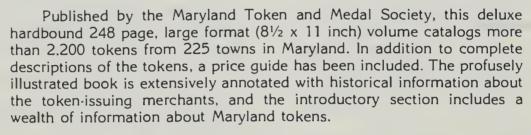
WANTED: CARROLL COUNTY TOKENS AND MEDALS, HANS SCHULER ITEMS SCHUTZEN park tokens and Dorman tokens. Wanted for displays. Write first! Greg Ruby, Box 728, Hampstead, MD 21074

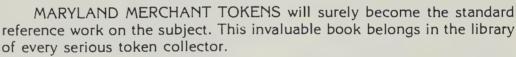


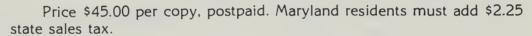
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WALTO.















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My collecting interests are				
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



AND A TOKEN OF A GREAT NEW YEAR





MARYLAND TOKEN AND MEDAL SOCIETY, INC.

Post Office Box 3273, Baltimore, Maryland 21228



1990 ANNUAL MEETING "GIVE-AWAY"

The members of the Maryland Token And Medal Society, Inc. (MD TAMS) welcome you to their 11th annual meeting held this 19th day of May 1990 by presenting you with this novel souvenir, a genuine leather token.

Production has been limited to a total of 200 pieces; 50 in a red color and 150 in a natural leather color. Each piece is serially numbered on its reverse starting with the red tokens. The tokens were produced for MD TAMS by Carl Wolf & Co. of Chicago, Illinois.

The red leather tokens were presented to each member and guest who were in attendance at the Annual Meeting and the natural leather tokens were sent to each MD TAMS member along with the summer issue of the MD TAMS Journal.

This "Give-Away" continues the practice that was established at the MD TAMS first annual meeting of issuing an exonumia souvenir piece to commemorate the annual meeting event.

TRADE VALUE OF YOUR LEATHER MONEY

This token can be applied for its full face value of \$2.25 toward the purchase of books offered for sale by MD TAMS. The offer remains valid through September 30, 1990 but we hope you will keep this souvenir token as a memento of the meeting and add it to your collection of exonumia. We urge you to take the opportunity to show this unusual piece to your friends and fellow numismatists to help prod their curiosity and stimulate interest in the fascinating field of exonumia. Inspire them to take up the hobby and join MD TAMS.

MARYLAND MERCHANT TOKEN BOOK

The Maryland Token And Medal Society, Inc. is the publisher of the award winning book "MARYLAND MERCHANT TOKENS" authored by prominent numismatist David E. Schenkman. This deluxe hard bound 248 page, large format (8 1/2 x 11 inch) volume catalogs more then 2200 tokens from 225 In addition to complete towns in Maryland. descriptions of the tokens, a price guide has been included. The profusely illustrated book is extensively annotated with historical information about the tokenissuing merchants. The introductory section includes a wealth of information about Maryland tokens and die sinkers. MARYLAND MERCHANT TOKENS is a requisite for the library of all serious collectors of tokens and is the standard work on the subject. Priced at \$45.00 per copy (plus 5% Maryland Sales Tax) it is available from: MD TAMS, Greenmeadow Drive, Timonium, MD 21093.

INTRODUCTION TO MD TAMS

The Maryland Token And Medal Society was founded in April, 1979 and Incorporated effective July 24, 1981. Its constitution and by-laws state that "the objectives of this society shall be to operate as a non-profit organization for the purpose of educating, encouraging and promoting interest in the tokens and medals, and other related exonumia, especially of the state of Maryland; to research, document and to cultivate fellowship and camaraderie among collectors and researchers."

MD TAMS meets informally a minimum of four times per year in concert with coin shows, conventions or historically interesting locations throughout the state of Maryland. Meeting dates are announced well in advance in the Society's MD TAMS Journal.

The MD TAMS Journal is the communication vehicle for the society and offers a traders section, advertising, society information, free advertising for members, articles on token and medals and other items of exonumia. All members receive this excellent publication quarterly via the United States mail.

Dues to join the Maryland Token And Medal Society is \$7.50 for a full year membership. Guests are always welcome at the meetings so come join us at our next session and bring along your collecting friends.

LEATHER MONEY IN THE UNITED STATES

From ancient times leather has served as money in various forms, occasionally for its utility but more often as a substitute for precious metals. Sometimes it has been used as fiat money; more commonly, as promissory notes. Emergencies such as wars and their aftermath have given birth to many issues of leather money. Finally, in the 20th century, quasi-souvenir and souvenir issues have appeared.

The earliest issue of leather money is said to be that of ancient Rome in the 5th and 6th century, consisting of stamped pieces of leather.

Leather money came to the western hemisphere in June 1722. The Province of the Massachusetts Bay issued small bills on parchment: a one penny round a two pence rectangular; and a three pence hexagonal. A total of 40,001 pence, 20,000 two pence, and 13,333 three pence were authorized; all are very rare today. Later that year Rosa Americana half pence and two pence were issued which obviated the need for these parchment bills.

Another form of leather money of the American frontier was more in the nature of barter or primitive money, but is worthy of mention because of the mark it has left on our language. This is the dressed deerskin or buckskin, used as money among the indians and pioneers. Since the buckskin, or "buck" for short, was generally worth one dollar, "buck" gradually became slang for "dollar."

No further leather pieces appeared until 1930, when the Detroit Coin Club, Detroit Michigan, issued a small leather medal commemorating its 150th meeting. This piece, which was not redeemable and so was not money in any sense, is uniface with a design embossed on black or colored leather. It has the distinction of being the first leather giveaway piece issued by a coin club.

With the Great Depression, leather was once again placed into circulation and redeemed. Three towns in Oregon issued leather scrip in 1933 and 1934. In Albany, the A. Sternberg Saddlery – Albany Tanning Co. issued in 1933 denominations of 10 cents, 25 cents, and 1 dollar stamped in green ink on thick brown leather. The 10 cents is round, scalloped, the 25 cents rectangular, and the 1 dollar is an irregular rectangular shape. All bear the inscription "Nothing Takes the Place of Leather" and all are hand signed by Mr. Sternberg. There are a total of nine varieties.

About \$700 of this scrip was issued and only about \$30 face value remains unredeemed.

In Wallowa County, Oregon, the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce issued "Buckskin Currency" in 1933 and 1934. All consist of half buck and one buck notes, hand printed on buckskin in black (or green, for the face of one note). There were two series, A and D, for a total of five varieties, plus a quarter buck printed on paper. All the buckskin used for these notes was tanned from deer killed in Wallowa County, and the scrip was fully secured by Wallowa County warrants; it was necessary in order to cash these, because of the shortage of money. The entire issue of \$1,515 (including the paper notes) was called for redemption, and all but about \$700 was redeemed.

Heppner, Oregon, issued a total of seven varieties of sheepskin scrip, notes picturing a sheep printed on thin, parchment-like sheepskin. There were two varieties each of the 25 cents, 50 cents, and 1 dollar denominations, plus a rare 5 dollars of which only 10 pieces were made. This issue was preceded by three issues of "sheepskin scrip" printed on ordinary paper with serial numbers beginning with "A" or "E." In Heppner the income from the sheep flocks and wheat fields had fallen so low that tax delinquency reached the point where it became necessary to pay school teachers and other city employees with municipal warrants. Of course these warrants were illiquid and had virtually no market value. The warrants were exchanged for sheepskin scrip, and since local businessmen agree to accept the scrip at face, the emergency was relieved and trade revived. A total of \$4,016.10, including the paper issues, was exchanged for school warrants and another \$766.25 sold for cash (probably to collectors) with \$85.90 used for expenses and \$119.80 given away, bringing total circulation to \$4,988.05. The scrip was called for redemption February 15, 1934 and \$3,341.15 was redeemed, leaving only \$1,646.90 outstanding. Though scarce, Heppner sheepskin scrip is the commonest leather money of the Depression.

No further issues of leather money appear to have been released until 1949, when the Chicago Numismatic Roundtable a small group of Chicago-area collectors made 25 cent notes in commemoration of their 15th anniversary. These measure 4 1/4 inches square and are known uniface, on thick leather, and printed on both sides of chamois leather. They are signed by the six men who were members at the time. Another leather issue was made by the Chicago Numismatic Roundtable in 1952, a 1 1/2 inch

diameter round piece made of various colors and thicknesses of leather. However, this issue has no denomination and so is simply a souvenir.

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary celebration of the State of Oregon in 1959, Prineville issued \$1 (1 buck) notes printed on brown leather the size of a dollar bill. The finished side is printed in green ink and the "wrong" side in brown ink. This note was good for \$1.00 in trade in Crook County, Oregon until September 26, 1959. Another community-Aurora, Ontario, Canada- also issued souvenir centennial dollars printed on leather about this time.

On April 8, 1989 the Chicago Coin Club issued a leather \$2.00 token redeemable until June 15, 1989.

Today, May 19,1990, the latest chapter in the history of leather money is being written by the Maryland Token And Medal Society with the issuance of this leather \$2.25 "Good For" token. Not born of war, depression, or other necessity, this token is distributed to you for two purposes only... your numismatic enjoyment and education!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

You are invited to pursue the history of leather money from other sources of economic, numismatic, and historical literature. Some principal sources are:

William Brimelow, "Leather Tokens," *The Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*, April 20, 1950, pp. 366-367.

W. Charlton, "Leather Currency," British Numismatic Journal, Vol. III, 1906.

Alexander Del Mar, History of Monetary Systems.

Paul Einzig. Primitive Money in its Ethnological, Historical and Economic Aspects.

Albert R. Frey. Dictionary of Numismatic Names.

Robert D. Leonard, Jr., *The History of Leather Money*, Monograph, April 8, 1989, Chicago Coin Club.

Many of these reference can be found in the library of the American Numismatic Association, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279 (719-632-2646).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This is to acknowledge efforts by The Chicago Coin Club who issued a leather token to all those present during its April 8, 1989 meeting held in conjunction with the Chicago International Coin Fair. A monograph on the "History of Leather Money," by Robert D. Leonard, Jr., then president of the Chicago Coin Club, also accompanied the token. Thus, the idea of a leather token "give-away" for MD TAMS was conceived and excerpts from Mr. Leonard's monograph are included here with his permission. Those scholars interested in a more definitive treatise on leather money should refer to Mr. Leonard's work.

